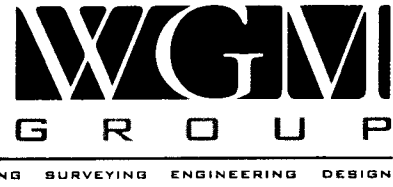


Infrastructure Investment for Economic Development & Jobs In Montana

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Problem:

Montana cities, towns, counties, tribal governments and schools are struggling to maintain their aging and inadequate infrastructure. The needs far exceed the funding tools available.

- Dilapidated infrastructure gives the appearance of dying communities rather than thriving and vibrant places to invest in new business.
- Deferred maintenance leads to a "day of reckoning" which will cost taxpayers much more.
- Congestion and poor access impacts the transport cost of goods and negatively impacts the trucking industry.
- Congestion is clogging the streets of our economic centers, hurting existing businesses and discouraging investment in new business.
- Sewer, water and power infrastructure necessary for new or expanding industry does not exist in many rural communities, limiting the potential for new business expansion.
- Current funding tools for local transportation infrastructure are limited to property tax based assessments.
- Need for infrastructure far exceeds funding available and funding tools are limited.
- Local funds are often not available to provide match for federal funding programs.
- Private investment is discouraged by unpredictable climate of public sector investment.

Solution:

Invest now in infrastructure to provide for our future economic vitality. Create **new sources and tools for direct funding** for transportation and education infrastructure at the local level. The private sector will respond with business investment creating economic growth and new jobs.

Strategies & Tactics:

Improve Community Economic Development

- Invest in infrastructure that directly benefits business expansion and education.
- Develop diversified funding tools for local governments to apply towards local infrastructure.
- Provide revenue streams to local governments that can support community development bonds.
- Provide opportunities for local match revenue to capture available federal funding.
- Provide tools that derive project funding in proportion to user benefit.
- Preserve existing Tax Increment Financing tools that are currently in place.

Provide a Stable and Predictable Environment for Business Investment

- Incentivize business investment by reducing business startup costs for infrastructure.
- Separate "one-time project" infrastructure funding from the general state budgeting process.
- Fund the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP), permanently.

Provide a High Quality Workforce Specific to Industry Needs.

- Fund Higher Education infrastructure, especially the Colleges of Technology for jobs training.
- Provide a regular funding source for K-12 School Maintenance and Upgrades for 21st Century Education.

For more information and concrete examples contact me directly or go to: www.wgmigroup.com